

TRANSPORTATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT BOARD

Friday, January 6, 2006
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
House Hearing Room "C"
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

- Minutes -

The meeting was called to order by Chair Doug Hurley at approximately 9:10 a.m. Members present were: Benson, Fanning, Forner, Haugen, Hurley, Jacobson, Ostrowski, Ray, Sandaas, Wallace and Woods.

1. Report of the Chairman

Rep. Wallace motioned and Dick Sandaas seconded to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2005 meeting. Motion passed.

Chair Hurley indicated that today was Dalene Sprick's last day with TPAB and thanked her for her extraordinary work. Ms. Sprick then briefly discussed her new position with the State Auditor's Office.

Due to the departure of Ms. Sprick, Chair Hurley informed the board that OFM had approved an amendment to the Lund Consulting contract. The amendment broadens the Lund Consulting scope of work to include TPAB staff support, increases the contract amount by \$50,000 and extends the end date of the contract to June 30, 2006. The board approved this action at its meeting on November 30, 2005.

2. Administrator Report

Dalene Sprick, TPAB staff, provided a brief overview on the status of existing TPAB projects.

Ruta Fanning then provided an overview of new developments and steps that JLARC has taken regarding the Hood Canal Bridge Graving Dock study. She noted that all the field work and document gathering is complete and that the consultant is in the process of drafting the final report. She stated that the state and the tribe have entered into formal negotiations, but she is not exactly sure how long the negotiations will take, nor exactly what the provisions of the negotiations are. She indicated that the negotiations could possibly provide an opportunity to fulfill the study objective relating to interaction of interested parties. This could not be addressed in the study due to the withdrawal of the Tribe from the process. However, there is no certainty that the Tribe would choose to participate in the future. If TPAB chose to wait for the outcome of the negotiations, it would lead to a delay in presenting the report at the March 2006 meeting.

Chair Hurley moved the order of the agenda. Agenda Item 3 was moved to the end of the meeting.

4. Performance Measures for TPA & 2003-05 Recurring Capital Results

Chair Hurley began by reminding the board that the Legislature asked that TPAB conduct a study of the performance measures for the Transportation Partnership Account projects. He indicated that the Transportation Data Work Group was formed to conduct this study.

Karl Herzog of the Governor's Office of Management and Accountability and Performance (GMAP), presented a progress report of the Transportation Data Work Group (formerly referred to as the Transportation Working Group). He discussed today's situation, desired future situations, how to get there and what has been accomplished so far.

Dalene Sprick, TPAB staff, then provided members with a synopsis report of the Transportation Data Work Group pointing out the successes of the work group and those items that the group reached consensus.

Michael Jacobson moved and Elmira Forner seconded to transmit the draft report with a cover letter requesting comments to the various involved entities. Comments will be incorporated in the report with a final due by the February 3 TPAB meeting. Motion passed.

5. Board review and discussion of the Preliminary Goals, Benchmarks and 10-Year Investment Criteria and Process Study

Kjris Lund, Lund Consulting and Kathy Scanlan, Cedar River Group, presented the draft report of the Transportation Goals, Benchmarks and Ten-Year Investment Criteria and Process Study.

This study is a combination of two separate legislative mandates. One to make recommendations regarding the modification of RCW 47.01.012, state transportation goals and benchmarks, and the other to conduct a review of the comprehensive ten-year investment program process, including the required criteria.

Chair Hurley suggested that this draft report not be finalized today, but transmitted to affected parties for input with the final due by the February 3, 2006 TPAB meeting. Senator Haugen motioned and Senator Benson seconded. Motion passed.

3. Board Review TPAB Draft Environmental Permitting Recommendation Letter

In January 2005, TPAB authorized JLARC to conduct a review of the Environmental Permitting issues related to capital construction projects delivered by WSDOT on TPAB's behalf. That report was completed and presented to TPAB at its October 7, 2005 meeting. The board approved JLARC's recommendations and transmitted those to the Governor and Senate and House Transportation Committees on October 13, 2005. However, it was noted in the transmittal letter that TPAB would be providing its comments and recommendations under separate cover.

Chair Hurley presented the board with a draft letter containing TPAB's recommendations to the report and indicated that he, Michael Jacobson, Senator Swecker (while still a TPAB member), and staff from the Department of Transportation, Department of Ecology and Department of Fish and Wildlife had reviewed the recommendations extensively, and that some of the issues were quite controversial. He urged the board to read the letter more carefully, but with the board's permission he requested that the draft letter be sent to those who have been informally working on the letter for their final review. He stated that he would then like to discuss the final version at the next TPAB meeting on February 3, 2006.

John Ostrowski moved and Representative Wallace seconded that the draft be sent out for final review. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.